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| **From:** | Carl Kaplan |
| **To:** | City Council |
| **Subject:** | HP Boycott Measure |
| **Date:** | Thursday, April 12, 2018 9:45:54 PM |

I am emailing to address BDS's claim that they are a non-violent movement, and thus entitled to an unimpeded Freedom to Boycott. While one may argue that BDS is non-violent, that does not mean it is non-harmful. Just as Freedom of Speech is not 100%, nor is Freedom to Boycott. While the conversation here involves HP, it is important to note that BDS believes in boycotting ALL Israel companies, including pharmaceuticals and medical device manufacturers. BDS was able to achieve a boycott by 300 UK pharmacies of Teva Pharmaceuticals (that Facebook page is still online), the world's largest generic drug manufacturer, and the manufacturer of the #1 drug used for those with Parkinson's Disease. I have lived in Cambridge, and know how important healthcare is to this great city, especially affordable healthcare for all residents. Since when does BDS have the right to restrict access to affordable drugs, because they are Israeli companies. Yet that is exactly what BDS's goal is. Last summer an Israeli company became the first and only company to receive FDA approval for a Neonatal MRI System that enables preparation and scanning of newborns in less than an hour, without having to transport them from the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). Does BDS have the right to tell parents that they have no right to this system, simply because it is an Israeli company? These are BDS's stated goals. So, while a boycott of HP may seem non-harmful, it is not. I ask you to consider this in your thinking.

Additionally, Is the City Council going to look at other countries, or simply go after Israel? BDS, JVP and others have never gone after anyone else. They can claim they are only representing one cause, but the City of Cambridge cannot and should not.

Finally, as with all boycotts, it is important for the City Council to appreciate what it would take to end this boycott. All boycotts must have a goal, thereby enabling the subject of the boycott to end the boycott. BDS and JVP are very clear on all their websites that Israel must leave the Occupied Territories. To some, this may seem acceptable. However, BDS continues to use as their slogan and goal, “From the River to the Sea, Palestine will be Free”. This means that they are not looking for just the West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem. No, they consider all of Israel to be occupied. So, should you accept this boycott, you will be forcing Israel to self-dissolve in order to end the boycott. This is not in any way, shape or form good for a peaceful two-state solution. I know that the City of Cambridge wants to be seen as a beacon of hope for peace. However, this boycott is not the way to achieve peace. Thank you.

Carl Kaplan